THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Out of the total length of about 7,300 kms of North-South and East-West Corridors, about 630 kms of National Highway are already four-laned. Four/Six laning of 20 sections of National Highways, totalling to a length of about 272 kms, is in progress. Prioritisation studies for other sections are at various stages of preparation.

(b) The expenditure on North-South & East-West Corridors was Rs. 122.45 crores during the year 1999-2000. A budget provision of Rs. 430 crores has been made for the year 2000-2001 for these corridors. It is too early to indicate allocation for the year 2001-2002.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Improvement of Jaleswar-Chandaneshwar Road

272. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) the fund sanctioned and released by the Central Government so far for construction and improvement of State Road from Jaleswar in Orissa to Chandaneswar (West Bengal border); and

(b) the details of the progress of the project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) This Ministry is responsible for development of National Highways. The State road from Jaleswar in Orissa to Chandaneswar (West Bengal border) is outside the purview of this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

National Highways in Orissa

273. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total length and number of roads taken over by Government in Orissa as National Highway is much less in comparison to other neighbouring States;